

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



PRODUCTS AND TOOLS FOR CLEANING

Supermarket shelves are filled with many products for cleaning your home. TV ads tell you that "Product X" is a miracle cleaner or "Product Y" does the job like no other. But you still want to know which is best for the job.

Here is a list of basic household cleaning products and tools. Along with the list, you'll find examples of what you can do with each product. Here are hints on how to choose the best tools to meet your needs.

Products	Kinds of Jobs You Can Do
Detergents powder, liquid	Wash dishes. Wash clothes. General household cleaning.
All purpose cleaners liquid, powder	Heavy household cleaning. Get rid of grease and grimy dirt.
Baking Soda	Clean glass, wall tile, and porcelain enamel.
Ammonia	Clean ovens. Loosen wax. Wash windows and mirrors.
Vinegar	Remove hard-water spots. Remove rust stains from sinks.
Lemon Juice	Use the same way as vinegar.
Cleaners and Scouring Powders	Remove tarnish and stains. Be careful — can scratch shiny finish of sinks, bathtubs, and kitchen appliances. Use only when needed.
Bleach	Help remove stains, but can dull shiny porcelain finish. Whiten laundry and remove many stains from clothes.
Steel wool or soap pads	Remove "stuck on" foods from pans and oven racks. Especially useful on aluminum.
Wax Floor (liquid or paste) Wood furniture White Cream Wax (for appliances)	Keep floors shiny and easier to clean. Make furniture look better, protect surface. Brighten kitchen appliances.
Polishes Furniture, Silver, Other metal	Clean-and-polish type loosens smudges from furniture, but you will need to clean grease or sugary spills before using polish to get rid of spot. Use metal polish as directed on label.
Drain Cleaner	Use with care, rinse with lots of water.
Special Products Toilet Bowl Cleaner Oven Cleaner Dry Cleaning Fluid (non-flammable) Disinfectants and Sanitizers Turpentine and Mineral Spirits	Buy these if you need them. Follow directions on the label—they can be harmful. Use and store them with care.

Tools	What to Look for When Buying Them
Broom	A fiber broom will be more expensive but will last longer. Hang the broom or rest it on the handle end for longer life.
Dustpan	Dustpans with long handles are best. You won't have to bend over to pick up the dirt.
Dry Mop—Dust Mop	The best mop has a removable mop head so it can be washed easily.
Carpet Sweeper	Can be used on rugs and for light cleaning.
Vacuum Cleaner —Lightweight —Cannister or Tank —Upright	For light cleaning. Use on wood floors or carpets and rugs. Has no attachments. Comes with a variety of attachments; is a good all-purpose cleaner. Especially good on rugs and carpets. Can buy attachments to make this an all-around cleaner.
Sponge Mop or String Mop	Choose one that has mop head that can be removed from handle for washing. Check handle length. Be sure it's long enough.
Pails	It's nice to have two pails—one for washing and one for rinsing. Check size and shape. Sponge mop should fit into both pails.
Sponges or Cleaning Cloth	Worn-out clothing makes soft cleaning cloths. You'll need a variety. Use coarse cloths and towels for heavy cleaning, and smoother ones for polishing jobs.
Stepladder or Step Stool	You can use a sturdy chair for climbing, but a stepladder is much safer. Choose a ladder that is high enough to reach any surface that will need cleaning.